

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **January 7, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

The meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers was held on **January 7, 2013** and was called to order at **3:45**.

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.		x
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Meeting minutes from the 12/3/12 meeting were reviewed. Bob Handzel motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Art Monaco. Approved 5 – 0.

Old Business:

Tom Costello confirmed \$2,300 was budgeted for moving future plumbing exams through Prometric and the item is now closed.

Discussions continued on changing classifications of plumbing licenses and the review of the State-Wide Texas code. Both items discussed at the November meeting still remain open.

The reduction of board member's pay was discussed. Art Questioned what the cut was. Tom Costello was asked to let the Board know.

The letter to the licensed plumbers in regard to rescinding reciprocity of Oneonta licenses will remain shelved until the board establishes a uniform standard for all three boards.

New Business:

The Board discussed qualifications for those applying for a Master Plumber's license. The Binghamton Board was asked to establish said qualifications to be reviewed and accepted by the Johnson City and Endicott boards so all three would work from the same standard. It was agreed that our requirements would be amended as follows:

Applicant to serve a five (5) year New York State approved apprentice program and prove one (1) year Journeyman experience

Or

Prove seven (7) years experience in plumbing field and pass a Journeyman's exam.

Bob Handzel motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was accepted by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for **February 4, 2013** at **3:45**.

There being no further business before this Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing Inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **February 4, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

The meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers was held on February 4, 2013 and was called to order at 3:50. The meeting was moved to the DPW conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, to accommodate additional Licensed plumbers in attendance. Additional sign in sheet attached.

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

The minutes from the 1/7/2013 meeting were reviewed. Fred Meagher motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Art Monaco. Approved 5-0.

Old Business:

The reduction of the board member's pay was discussed. The revised rate is established at \$33.33 and the revised pay vouchers were handed out.

Discussion will continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas code.

The letter to the licensed plumbers in regard to rescinding reciprocity of Oneonta Licenses was discussed at length and subsequently proved to be the main topic of the meeting due to the large number of plumbing contractors in attendance

Collectively this group of contractors, who are also licensed Master Plumbers in the City of Binghamton, have requested the immediate suspension of these licenses held by Christopher Bodek (License #906), Kevin Sheldon (License #908), and Tom Testa (License #907). Their request is based on the way that each licensee obtained their initial license from the City of Oneonta and subsequently used that license to obtain a license in the City of Binghamton.

Tom Costello explained that he had been advised that legal considerations may preclude this action. He went on to explain, however, that the City of Binghamton Board is currently drafting an amendment of current local law that will address deficiencies and strengthen various aspects of the licensing process.

During discussion, the Board reiterated their consensus that a standardized approach, similar to that used in the state of Texas code, will improve the qualification and testing process. When a draft has been completed by the Board, it will be reviewed and amended with Endicott / Johnson City's boards to establish a uniform standard for all three municipalities.

The group of contractors, which included Rick Holden, Joe Leto, John Piccirilli, Karl Eschbach, and Bob Auchinachie, asked why Binghamton didn't follow suit with Oneonta's letter to our plumbers stating their licenses for Oneonta would not be renewed.

In response, the Board explained that said letter from office of the Oneonta City Clerk was dated October 5, 2012. Because the renewal date in Binghamton is September 30th, each of those licenses, that had originated in Oneonta, had already been renewed prior to the above-described action.

Tom Burke stated that it was his understanding that said licenses would not be renewed for 2014 following suit with Oneonta's letter. Tom Costello replied it was his understanding that Corporation Counsel would support this type of action.

Tom Burke brought up that at last month's meeting the board established qualifications for taking the master plumbers test were as follows.

Applicant to serve a five (5) year New York State approved apprentice program and prove one (1) year Journeyman experience

Or

Prove seven (7) years experience in plumbing field and pass a Journeyman's exam.

Karl Eschbach wanted it clarified that if the applicant takes said journeymen's exam a full year of work under such title would be required prior to taking master plumbers exam.

New Business:

Renewal of Brad Davis's License #71 (attached) was brought to the board per section 109.3 of our local law (attached). His license was originally issued 11/10/87 and was renewed once on 12/6/88. Brad said he didn't renew his license because he's been steadily employed by union contractors since 1988 and never had any need to obtain work under the license. L.N. Picciano and Son requested that Brad renew his license in the event that Wayne Howard stepped down they could continue to work under Brad's license. The board agreed to grant said renewal if Brad would re-apply for a license and provide a list of his employment since 1988. After receipt of said information the board would set a fee for the renewal cost.

Tom Burke presented (Attached) a response from Cheryl A. Fischer, P.E., Assistant Director for Code Interpretation regarding connection of pex tubing directly to a gas fired water heater. .She listed several responses. Mainly that per the manufacture 18" of hard piping is required between Pex™ tubing and the top of the heater and that manufactures specs will trump code. The Board requested this information be sent to all licensed plumbers.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was accepted by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 4 2013** at **3:45**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Art Monaco
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **March 4, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		x
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke		X

The minutes from the 2/4/2013 meeting were reviewed. Fred Meagher motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Rudy Gaspar. Approved 4-0. Meeting minutes were not sent to the additional guest (Licensed plumbers) in attendance.

Old Business

Additional information requested by the Board at the February meeting was reviewed in regard to Bred Davis's request to renew his license (C.O.B. #71). It was agreed to allow 5 years in arrears to make up license renewal. $\$55.00 \times 5 = \275.00 would be set. Tom Costello to check with the Corporation Counsel to verify it's legal.

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City boards.

Discussions will also continue on Changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas Code

New Business:

Tom Costello stated future meeting minutes are to be made public and will be posted on the new web page.

Prometrics will be approved by Binghamton City Council and will be offered in Binghamton. The joint board has not formally agreed to use Prometrics.

Tom Costello will ask Tom Burke to call other municipalities to see if they have a practical fit up test for the plumbing exam.

Tom made motion to specify that we consider Prometrics to provide a Master License Test. The motion was seconded by Fred Meagher and approved 4 – 0. Formal discussion will be at next meeting.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom and approved 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

The next meeting is scheduled for **April 1 2013** at **3:45**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **April 1, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		x
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Chris Bodek sat meeting

Meeting was called to order at by Tom Burke and second by Fred Meagher and approved (5-0)

Meeting minutes from both March were not reviewed. Tom Burke to take Art Monaco notes and formally submit minutes.

Old Business

Tom Burke is to notify the City Clerk in regard the board's decision to renew Bred Davis's License (C.O.B. #71) for a total cost of \$225.00. This was done via email, Davis paid said fee and his licensed was renewed.

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City Boards.

Discussions will also continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas Code.

New Business:

Tom Burke reviewed two (2) letters from the Johnson City Plumbing Board stating that Chistopher Scott Ashley and Thomas Anthony Testa were approved to take their Master Plumbers Test.

Tom Burke was asked to contact Rick Holden on when the last joint meeting was held, when the next will be held, and if Johnson City was to add a practical (hands on) portion to their exam. Per Rick the last meeting was on 3/15/2013 and was called early because Tom Costello couldn't make it to discuss fees for future permits. He said the next meeting would be May 15th at 6:00 PM. He also said J.C. would not be adding a practical portion to their exam this year because he didn't have the time to put one together

Three applications for the Binghamton Master Plumbers Exam were reviewed and accepted by the board. Tom Burke will send acceptance letters to John Feeko, George Slavick III, and Michael Piccirilli. Part one will be on June 1st and Part two on July 2nd. Tom Costello also requested that George Slavick III provide university transcripts of his courses and copies of his reference certificates.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months.

Art Monaco stated he could not make the May 6th meeting so it was agreed to postpone it until the 13th. Art Monaco and Rudy Gasper also requested there be a discussion at the next meeting to change meeting days from the first Monday of each month to an agreed date from all members to avoid conflicts with their schedules.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Costello and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 13, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **May 13, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco		x
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Late arrivals Fred Meagher 3:55 / Bob Handzel 4:05

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 by Tom Burke, seconded by Tom Costello and approved (3-0)

Meeting minutes from both March & April were reviewed Tom Costello noted typo for the spelling of "George" in the April meeting minutes. Tom also asked Tom Burke to call George Slavik III and in regard to Mr. Slavik's college transcript, which has not yet been received, as requested. With that said Tom Costello motioned for minutes to be accepted as noted. Motion was second by Fred Meagher and approved (4-0)

Old Business

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City Boards.

Discussions will also continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses and review of the state-wide Texas Code.

Tom Burke contacted Rick Holden. The next joint Plumbing Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM, May 22, 2013 at the Johnson City Library. Rick also stated there would not be a practical (hands on) addition to J.C. master plumbers exam because he didn't have the time to put one together.

Rudy & Art requested that the Board have a discussion about changing meeting dates for the next meeting each month to avoid scheduling conflicts with each member. This request was reviewed by Tom Burke and Tom Costello. Tom Costello stated because the meetings are open to the public changing meeting dates from the first Monday of each month was not a good idea.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months. (Stated at April 1st meeting)

New Business:

Tom Costello said he reviewed correspondence received from the attorney representing Chris Bodek, in regard to the issue of renewing Mr. Bodek's City of Binghamton Master Plumbing license. The original correspondence was addressed and transmitted to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel, Ken Frank, Esq. Fred Meagher suggested the Board advise Corporate Council to terminate all Licenses issued through Oneonta and wait for their decision.

Rudy Gaspar asked if homeowners were allowed to do their own plumbing work. Tom Burke stated that City Council had already made changes to local law prohibiting this type of activity. Tom Burke requested a copy of said changes to show homeowners, if or when he is asked about this regulation.

Tom Burke submitted an application for the Master Plumber exam, on behalf of an applicant, Leonard Chapman, whose application was problematic because he had filed subsequent to the due date for this year's Master Plumber exam. The Board agreed to accept said application and will allow Mr. Chapman to sit for the exam. Tom Burke stated he would call and send an acceptance letter out to Mr. Chapman.

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department, in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a "more restrictive code standard." The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard.

The Mayor and Plumbing Inspector, Tom Burke, have been in discussion in regard to the use of plastic piping use. Once again, questions were raised about the approved, more restrictive standards imposed under the local code. Between Tom Burke's conversations with the Office of the City Clerk, and with help from Rudy Gaspar, we believe these conditions have been clearly identified. This information, as below, was read into the record and distributed to meeting attendees.

- a) Floor drains, in each commercial, industrial, and public rest rooms. See NYS plumbing code section 412.4 slightly different, to be enforced
- b) "S" traps prohibited Per NYS plumbing code 1002.3 they are Dead issue.
- c) Building sewer, clean-out required between sidewalk and curb. Requirements are listed in 708 of NYS plumbing code. However specific requirement and detail is provided by the C.O.B. To be enforced.
- d) Vent extensions, terminate at least 15" above roof. Per section 904.1 of NYS plumbing code 18" now required. Dead issue
- e) Plastic piping, prohibited in residential buildings over 2 stories. Per section 3002.1 (1) or the NYS Residential Code "plastic" (ABS & PVC) are allowed. Note: NYS plumbing code sections 702.1 & 1102.4 plastic piping (ABS&PVC) are allowed for storm & sanitary piping installations. This was revoked in 6/4/2007 Dead issue
- f) Future vent connection in basement. Note there is no clarification on a size, etc. Per section 917 of the NYS plumbing code AAV valves are allowed. The Board agreed that because AAV's are now recognized by NYS code these are now acceptable. Tom Burke stated if it's possible he is enforcing tie-in to existing vents. Only in situations where this is not possible / practical are they allowed.

Bob Handzel and Tom Burke agreed to come up with new questions for the Master plumbers exam coming June 3rd.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and Part I of Master Plumbing exam is scheduled for **June 3, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **June 3, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello		x
Tom Burke	x	

Four applicants (George Slavik, Mike Piccirilli, John Feeko, and Leonard Chapman) to take Master Plumbers Test were spread out and given their exams at 3:45. Note: As requested by the Board, Mr. Slavik submitted a copy of his collage transcript for review.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Tom Burke, seconded by Fred Meagher and passed (5-0)

Meeting minutes from the May were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Fred Meagher. Motion seconded by Art Monaco and approved (5-0)

Old Business

Tom Burke stated he suggested that standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing be done at the joint Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton Board meeting, at the **May 22, 2013** meeting. Members in attendance agreed, Rick Holden stated that in order to get through the issue, key members from all the boards needed to be present. Rick said he would send emails out to try and establish a date everyone could agree to attend. The Binghamton Board agreed that this would be the way to go.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months. (Stated at April 1st) Art Monaco questioned what that meant. This will be reviewed at July's meeting with Tom Costello.

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department, in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS

Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a “more restrictive code standard.” The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. Item to remain open for discussion.

New Business:

Fred Meagher was asked to draft a letter to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel in regard to any license issued through the City of Oneonta. This correspondence will reference materials prepared by Rudy Gaspar, in regard to the relationship between proper licensing and public safety. Tom Burke stated only involved Kevin Sheldon and Chris Bodek because, according to Rick Holden, Tom Testa has already been qualified and subsequently passed the Exam for Master Plumber in the Village of Johnson City.

In regard to Rudy Gaspar’s question if homeowners were allowed to do their own plumbing work, Tom Burke stated that per Tom Costello local Law was changed. Tom Burke to get with Tom Costello for a copy of change.

Tom Burke submitted an application for the Master Plumber exam, on behalf of an applicant, Luke Walz, whose application was problematic because he had filed subsequent to the due date for this year’s Master Plumber exam. The Board agreed to deny said application. Tom Burke to call Walz, to resubmit application by April 1, 2014. The \$50.00 application fee is to be refunded.

A letter from Johnson City’s board was reviewed stating that Christopher Scott Ashley had passed his Master Plumbers Exam.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and Part I of Master Plumbing exam is scheduled for **July 1, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **July 1, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.		x
Robert Handzel		X
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Rick Holden from the J.C. Board in attendance

The four applicants (George Slavik, Mike Piccirilli, John Feeko, and Leonard Chapman) that took Part 1 of the Master Plumbers Test at the June meeting failed. John Feeko, and Leonard Chapman came in to review their test. Any and all questions they had were reviewed. Both said they thought the test was fair and just needed to review the 2013 NYS plumbing code which the test was based. The options for retesting were explained to them: Reapply for the Binghamton exam by 4/1/2013 or Apply for the Johnson City exam by September first for the next test given in October.

The meeting was formally called to order at 4:03 by Tom Costello, seconded by Rudy Gaspar and passed (4-0)

Meeting minutes from the May were reviewed. Art Monaco stated that it should be noted the exams taken at the June meeting were also corrected after said meeting. With that said, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Rudy Gaspar. Motion seconded by Art Monaco and approved (4-0)

Old Business

The Binghamton Board agreed on July, 31, 2013 as a date all could attend the next joint plumbing board meeting. Rick Holden, speaking for the Johnson City Board agreed on the date as well. Rick Holden agreed to contact Endicott's members to confirm and fix that date. The main topic of said meeting will be to discuss standardized qualifications, as required to obtain a Master Plumber License within all municipalities that are party to the inter-municipal reciprocity agreement.

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department, in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances),

but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a “more restrictive code standard.” The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. Item to remain open for discussion.

New Business:

Fred Meagher was asked to draft a letter to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel in regard to any license issued through the City of Oneonta. This correspondence will reference materials prepared by Rudy Gaspar, in regard to the relationship between proper licensing and public safety. Tom Burke stated only involved Kevin Sheldon and Chris Bodek because, according to Rick Holden, Tom Testa has already been qualified and subsequently passed the Exam for Master Plumber in the Village of Johnson City. Fred absent issue remains open.

A letter from Johnson City’s board was reviewed stating that Thomas A. Testa had passed his Master Plumbers Exam.

Tom Burke was given the original plumbing code of the City of Binghamton, Art Monaco’s (Red Book) of the Plumbing Rules and Regulations of the City of Binghamton, and a document dated 1/31/2003 by David S. Chadwick stating that the New York State Plumbing Code would replace the formal Binghamton Code with a list of six (6) “enhancements” that were above the requirements of the NYS code at that time that were specific for the City of Binghamton. These documents are to be given to Judy Coderre to be copied to a PDF file and eventually added to the City’s web site. Note the six (6) enhancements were reviewed against the current 2010 Code at the May meeting. Only two (901.11f & 903.10a) remain in effect. All other were eventually adopted into the NYS Code.

Tom Burke will transmit formal notification of test results from June to all applicants reviewing the grade as well as options stated above.

Art Monaco motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke and approved 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

The next meeting and is scheduled for **August 5, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **August 5, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		X
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Bob Handzel called to say he couldn't leave work to make meeting.

The meeting was formally called to order at 3:50 by Fred Meagher, seconded by Art Monaco and passed (5-0)

Meeting minutes from the July were reviewed. Art Monaco stated that the first paragraph under New Business on Fred Meagher drafting a letter to Corp Council should be listed as old business. He also wanted the last sentence of said paragraph clarified that Fred was absent from the meeting and therefore the item remained open. With that said, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Fred Meagher. Motion seconded by Art Monaco and approved (5-0).

Old Business

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department at the May meeting in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a "more restrictive code standard." The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. Item to remain open for discussion.

Fred Meagher 's letter dated 6, 28, 2013 to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel regarding rescinding the reciprocal licensing agreement with the City of Oneonta remains open. To date no response has been received. Copies of the letter were circulated to the members at the August meeting.

Tom Burke was given the original plumbing code of the City of Binghamton, Art Monaco's (Red Book) of the Plumbing Rules and Regulations of the City of Binghamton, and a document dated 1/31/2003 by David S. Chadwick stating that the New York State Plumbing Code would replace the formal Binghamton Code with a list of six (6) "enhancements" that were above the requirements of the NYS code at that time that were specific for the City of Binghamton. These documents are to be given to Judy Coderre to be copied to a PDF file and eventually added to the City's web site. Note the six (6) enhancements were reviewed against the current 2010 Code at the May meeting. Only two (901.11f & 903.10a) remain in effect. All other were eventually adopted into the NYS Code. Art's "Red book" and I document dated 1/31/2003 was returned to him. PDF files are now located in K:\A8664.Building_Construction_and_Code_Enforcement\A8664.Departmental_Administration\A3610.002.Plumbing_Board\Legislation

Tom Burke's letters to the four applicants that failed June's test were reviewed and accepted by the board.

New Business

Tom Costello's draft agreement, in regard to License Qualifications and Testing, was presented for review at the July 31, 2013, meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners. By consensus action, the members of the Board agreed, that future meetings of the Board should be held quarterly and that further discussion of relevant issues will continue at that time. The date of the next meeting has not been set.

Tom Costello circulated a revised draft to the Binghamton Board. The draft was reviewed by the members and it was agreed that each board member would review it and bring their input to the September Meeting. **Bob Handzel's copy of this meeting should include a copy of the revised draft. All other Members were copied at the meeting.**

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and is scheduled for **September 9, 2013 due to the Labor Day Holiday at 3:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Art Monaco
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **September 9, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.		
Robert Handzel		X
Art Monaco	x	x
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke		x

Tom Costello Handed out Legislation from Ithaca regarding new plumbing fees. (Attached) Since there were not enough present for a quorum, no meeting was held.

All other minutes below are left from the meeting held August 5, 2013

Old Business

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department at the May meeting in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a "more restrictive code standard." The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. Item to remain open for discussion.

Fred Meagher's letter dated 6, 28, 2013 to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel regarding rescinding the reciprocal licensing agreement with the City of Oneonta remains open. To date no response has been received. Copies of the letter were circulated to the members at the August meeting.

Tom Burke was given the original plumbing code of the City of Binghamton, Art Monaco's (Red Book) of the Plumbing Rules and Regulations of the City of Binghamton, and a document dated 1/31/2003 by

David S. Chadwick stating that the New York State Plumbing Code would replace the formal Binghamton Code with a list of six (6) "enhancements" that were above the requirements of the NYS code at that time that were specific for the City of Binghamton. These documents are to be given to Judy Coderre to be copied to a PDF file and eventually added to the City's web site. Note the six (6) enhancements were reviewed against the current 2010 Code at the May meeting. Only two (901.11f & 903.10a) remain in effect. All other were eventually adopted into the NYS Code. Art's "Red book" and I document dated 1/31/2003 was returned to him. PDF files are now located in K:\A8664.Building_Construction_and_Code_Enforcement\A8664.Departmental_Administration\A3610.002.Plumbing_Board\Legislation

Tom Burke's letters to the four applicants that failed June's test were reviewed and accepted by the board.

New Business

Tom Costello's draft agreement, in regard to License Qualifications and Testing, was presented for review at the July 31, 2013, meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners. By consensus action, the members of the Board agreed, that future meetings of the Board should be held quarterly and that further discussion of relevant issues will continue at that time. The date of the next meeting has not been set.

Tom Costello circulated a revised draft to the Binghamton Board. The draft was reviewed by the members and it was agreed that each board member would review it and bring their input to the September Meeting. **Bob Handzel's copy of this meeting should include a copy of the revised draft. All other Members were copied at the meeting.**

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and is scheduled for **September 9, 2013 due to the Labor Day Holiday at 3:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

BINGHAMTON
EXAMING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
INTER-DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

Date: 9/9/13

To: Plumbing Board Members

From: ART MONACO

Subject: Minutes of Meeting of 9/9/13

Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Johnson City and Endicott Plumbing Boards,
Tom Costello, Luke Day, File

The meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers was held on 9/9/13 and called to order at

Members	Present:	Member Absent
Rudy Gaspar	✓	—
Frederick J. Meagher Jr.	—	✓
Robert Handzel	—	—
Art Monaco	✓	—
Tom BURKE	—	✓
Items Discussed		
Tom Costello ✓		

Tom Costello - handed out an Ithaca Plumbing Permit Fee schedule for review & comments.

Since there was not enough ^{members present} for a quorum, no meeting was held. ^{for our board}

Tom will make copies of the joint meeting ^{minutes} with J.C. & Endicott that Rich Hold sent out.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 7th, 2013, 3:45 P.M.

There being no further business before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Monaco
Acting Secretary

Hm: 607-729-0870

Wk: 607-321-6120 Fx: 607-321-6160

8/5/2013

DEFINITIONS

1. **Applicant** – A person who has submitted an application to sit for the Exam, as required to be licensed as Master Plumber, under the Plumbing licensing program provided herein
2. **Host Municipality** – The Participant Municipality that has principal responsibility for administration of the Exam, under the Plumbing Licensing program provided herein
3. **Participant Municipality** - A municipality that is signatory to the Plumbing Licensing Agreement and which is duly represented on the Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners
4. **Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners** – A voluntary affiliation between Participant Municipalities, with powers, duties and responsibilities as described herein
5. **Master Plumber** – A person who was duly qualified to sit for the Plumbing License Exam, who has achieved a passing grade on that Exam, and who has been issued a valid license to perform Plumbing services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the any one or all of the Participant Municipalities
6. **Testing Agency** – An organization whose principal business is comprised of testing services for trade licensing that is duly certified or authorized by a Board-recognized authority and thereby authorized to provide such testing services for Plumbing licensing program described herein
7. **Plumbing License Exam** – A standardized test that has been approved by the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers and, based on content and methodology, is an appropriate vehicle for assessing the qualifications and experience of an Applicant, as required to qualify the Applicant to work as a Licensed Master Plumber within the jurisdictional boundary of each Participant Municipality

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

1. Each Participant Municipality agrees to draft and endorse municipal legislation that will amend any previous agreements that pertain to intermunicipal reciprocity, in relation to their respective Master Plumber Licensing program. The form and content of authorizing legislation in each municipality shall specifically address and include the following items:
 - a. Endorse and authorize the creation of a Joint Board of Examining Plumbers, with duties , powers, and responsibilities as provided herein
 - b. Endorse and authorize a revised Master Plumber License reciprocity agreement under which a single license, issued by the Host Municipality, will be recognized and honored by all Participant Municipalities
 - c. Endorse and authorize the principal and practice of standardized testing, by an independent testing agency, based on the International Code and all other codes subordinate thereto
 - d. Endorse and authorize the collection and disposition of fees by the Host Municipality, as required to administer the Master Plumbing License program in the manner and method described herein

- e. Reserve each of the current qualification standards for the Exam, as provided under current legislation within each municipality, until or unless a new, uniform standard for qualifications is jointly adopted by the Joint Board, on behalf of all Participant Municipalities
 - f. Authorize and endorse the Terms and Conditions of this agreement for the purpose of enrolling a Participant Municipality as a signatory party or for the purpose of terminating this agreement on the part of any one or more signatories
2. (Reserved)

JOINT BOARD OF EXAMINING PLUMBERS

1. The Joint Board of Examining Plumbers shall be comprised of two representatives from the local Board of Plumbing Examiners, *or equivalent*, from each Participant Municipality
2. Each municipal representative may cast a single vote for any action of the Joint Board. Board action shall be approved by a simple majority, except where otherwise noted herein
3. Meetings of the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers
 - a. The Board shall meet regularly and a minimum of four times per year.
 - b. If an official meeting of the Joint Board is not held for a period of more than one year the Reciprocity Agreement, by any Municipality, shall be suspended and no new licenses shall be issued under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, until or unless a schedule of regular meetings has been reestablished by the Board
4. The Joint Board of Examining Plumbers shall designate one of the Participant Municipalities as the Host Municipality
 - a. The Host Municipality shall be selected by a two-thirds majority vote
 - b. Any Participant Municipality may waive the opportunity to serve as the Host Community
 - c. The Joint Board shall have the authority to establish a sequential rotation of the Host Community

HOST COMMUNITY

1. The Host Community shall be responsible for the following administrative tasks:
 - a. Publicize and promote the Master Plumber Exam
 - b. Maintain a formal system to receive and process Application(s) for new licenses
 - c. Maintain a formal, Joint Board-approved method of validating or invalidating current licenses and a method for renewing expired or invalid licenses
 - d. Maintain and publicize an official, current list of Licensed Master Plumbers
 - e. Maintain and administer all official records generated by the Licensing program
 - f. Administer and proctor the Exam, as described herein, in support of Testing Agency
 - g. Publish and distribute Licensing documents
 - h. Maintain, administer, and publish the official Meeting calendar, agenda, and minutes on behalf of the Joint Board
2. The Host Community shall not have sole responsibility for any official action of the Joint Board

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANT COMMUNITIES

1. Each Participant Municipality agrees to send two (2) voting representatives to each meeting of the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers
2. If a Participant Municipality fails to attend at least one official Joint Board meeting, during a period of one calendar year, the other members of the Board shall decide, by a vote of simple majority, whether to terminate or sustain the Reciprocity Agreement with the non-participating Municipality
3. The voting representatives from each Participant Community will meet, as a Joint Board, to evaluate minimum qualifications of each Applicant for the Exam and to establish the final list of qualified Applicants.
 - a. The preliminary qualifications for each Applicant shall be transmitted to each voting representative at least four (4) weeks prior to the Joint Board meeting
 - b. In the event of disputed qualifications, the eligibility of any applicant to qualify for the exam shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the voting representatives present at a meeting of the Joint Board

LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER EXAM

1. **Minimum Qualifications**
 - a. Pending any future action of the Joint Board to establish a uniform standard and method of qualification for all Participant Municipalities, the initial qualification of an Applicant shall be in accordance with the current minimum standards for the Host Municipality or any one of the other Participant Municipalities
 - i. A copy of the current standards for all Municipalities shall be provided to the Applicant as a standard component of the Application package
 - ii. If a specific question is received from an Applicant, in regard to the minimum qualifications of a Participant Community, the Applicant may be referred to the Participant Community's Board of Plumbing Examiners or designee
 - b. The Joint Board shall reserve sole power to determine whether any Applicant is sufficiently qualified to sit for the Plumbing Licensing Exam and to authorize same by simple majority vote
2. **Exam Application** – the Host Community will administer the examination in the following manner:
 - a. Coordinate the time, place, and method of exam with the approved Testing Agency
 - b. Receive applications for completeness and collect fees from the exam Applicants
 - i. The Applicant shall pay a non-refundable, administrative fee of FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50), payable to the Host Community, at the time of application
 - ii. Revenue generated by Administrative fees shall be maintained in an independent municipal fund and used exclusively to subsidize administrative costs incurred by the Host Municipality
 - c. Compile application files and perform a formal review of qualifications, as required to establish a preliminary list of eligible applicants
 - d. Transmit complete applications to the members of Participant Communities, at least four weeks prior to the meeting scheduled by the Joint Board for this Applicant review
3. **Testing Agency** – the Exam for Licensed Master Plumber shall be designed and administered by a testing agency, fully qualified and duly certified for this service.
 - a. The Board from each municipality participant to this agreement will review the qualifications of the Testing Agency, prior to a meeting of the Joint Board.
 - b. One representative from each Board will vote for or against approval of the Testing Agency

- c. The term of the contract with the Testing Agency will be for a period of two years, with an option to renew the contract for a period of three additional years.
 - d. The fee for the examination shall be as established by the Testing Agency and shall be paid directly to the Testing Agency by the applicant, in accordance with a standardized method of payment and subsequent to Board approved qualification to sit for the exam.
 - e. The exam shall be held twice a year, minimum, in September and in May of each calendar year
4. **Exam Administration** – The Testing Agency will administer the examination to all qualified Applicants, in the following manner:
- a. Coordinate the time, place, and method of exam with the Host Municipality
 - b. Receive the Agency Exam application and applications fees from each Applicant from the list of Board-qualified Applicants
 - c. Administer Exam on scheduled date and at scheduled location
 - d. Score exams and transmit results to the Host Community
 - e. The Host Municipality shall review the results of the examination and transmit the results to each of the respective Boards within thirty (30) days of the date results are received from the Testing Agency or examination date, whichever is sooner

RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FOR EXISTING LICENSURE

All Participant Municipalities agree to recognize that any Master Plumber who is legally licensed by any one or more of the Participant Municipalities shall be deemed legally licensed, without any further qualification or examination, upon producing their current license and paying the license fee to the municipality from which a license is sought, except as provided below:

- 1. Such recognition shall continue as long as each Participant Municipalities has agreed, under municipal ordinance, maintain a common standard, as to the qualifications and proscribed method of licensing of Master Plumbers
- 2. As of the effective date of this Agreement, any Master Plumbers who is currently licensed by virtue of passing a written exam, administered by a Participant Municipality, shall be entitled to reciprocal recognition pursuant to this Agreement
- 3. As of the effective date of this Agreement, any Master Plumbers who is currently licensed by virtue of any method of qualification other than a written exam administered by a Participant Municipality, shall not be entitled to reciprocal recognition pursuant to this Agreement, unless a Master License is held in any two thirds of the total number of Participant Municipalities

Legislation: Plumbing Permit Fees

Whereas: Plumbing Permit Fees are a necessary and reasonable cost to the public for the local administration and enforcement of public health and sanitation laws required by State regulations.

Whereas: It is a necessary function of government to assess public service activities from time to time to determine the actual cost to the community and to establish reasonable fees for the proper discharge of said public services.

Whereas: The current Plumbing Permit Fee structure for the City of Ithaca is significantly lower than the surrounding area owing mostly to the fact that these fees have not been changed in over 40 years.

Whereas: It is desirable to have a more accurate cost sharing of plumbing review and inspections services in the form of Plumbing Permit Fees for end users who are the primary recipient of those services than to rely on rate payer revenues.

Now therefore be it resolved:

Chapter 146, Building Code Enforcement, Article 4, Plumbing, Section 146-30 Permits, C. Fees shall be amended by adding enumeration (1) as follows:

(1) City of Ithaca Plumbing Permit Fee Schedule

New construction

Single Family Residences: \$50 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 2-10 units: \$100 application fee plus \$ 5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 11-20 units: \$250 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 21 units or more: \$500 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Commercial or Other Plumbing work under \$25,000: \$100 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work between \$25,000 to \$100,000: \$250 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work between \$100,000 to \$500,000: \$500 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work over \$500,000: \$750 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Renovations and Additions:

Single Family Residences: \$25 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences: \$100 application fee plus \$ 5 per fixture

Commercial or Other Plumbing work: \$100 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Partial Service Users

All permit fees for work conducted on premises not connected to City water or sewer service or not anticipated to be connected to City water or sewer service once connected to any water or sewer service shall be based on the City of Ithaca Plumbing Permit Fee Schedule for Commercial or Other Plumbing work plus 15 percent of the total therein specified.

Legislative Intent

The revenues collected by the City through the regular issuances of water and sewer bills establish the budget and spending allowances of the Water and Sewer Division. The office of the Plumbing Inspector is an expenditure within that Division. Although, plumbing permit fees do contribute to the Water and Sewer revenues, 95% of the expenditures required for plumbing services are now covered by rate payer revenues. It is the intension of this legislation to shift more of that cost onto the primary user of the service, specifically, the permit holder in the form of plumbing permit fees that more accurately reflect the actual cost to the City to provide plumbing review, inspection and enforcement.

This proposed Plumbing Permit Fee structure will bring our rates in line with the rates of other jurisdictions in our area while providing a more equitable cost sharing solution between the rate payers and permit holders. A planned "phase-in" of all rates seems impractical and counterproductive due to the historically low existing rates.

Sliding Scale.

The fee schedule keeps the Single Family Residential permits at a reasonable cost at somewhere in the \$30-\$40 range for most work while providing a "sliding scale" for all other types of construction. The increases in the fees are proportional to the amount of review that is associated with more complicated or compound plumbing construction (multiple types, high rises, mixed uses). The issues that necessitate a higher degree of plan review such as: fire flows, large meter sizing, valve placements, equipment locations, backflow requirements, grease trap sizing, utility service sizing and entrance coordination, storm water regulations, sanitary discharge requirements and others, qualify the higher fees.

Within the "sliding scale" fees there are two general categories of Multiple Residence and Commercial. In the Multiple Residence fees the application cost increase with the number of units and reflects the increased administrative effort needed to approve plans and specifications, coordinate with department personnel and resources, and to execute the requirements for issuing the permit. The fixture fees are universal for multiple residence applications and represent the costs associated with inspections and the administration of the actual construction phase.

Commercial and Other

The Commercial or Other (Academic, Industrial, etc) application fees are similar to the Multiple Residences fees except that, instead of units, the fee is based on the dollar value of the plumbing work (Actual Total of Labor and Material). Our Building Department uses a similar method of total construction cost to determine the Building Permit fee. The actual formulas may vary but the concept and premise are the same. The dollar value is used to represent the amount of plumbing work or equipment being installed. The greater the dollar value, the greater the administrative review. Fixture fees are higher but universal within the category and represent the costs associated with inspections and the administration of the actual construction phase.

The higher fixture costs associated with commercial plumbing equipment is justified in that there can be found in these types of fixtures more specialized and unique installation requirements than standard household plumbing. Here the gamut extends beyond bathrooms and kitchens to plumbing items designed for other Industries. Examples are: cooling towers and chillers, steam and hot water boilers, commercial dishwashers, chemical rinse dispensers, sterilizers, surgery tables, dental aspirator, medical vacuum/water systems, fume hoods, lab sinks, wok stoves, landscape irrigation systems, grease and sediment interceptors, sewage ejectors, water filtration systems, make-up water for fan/coil systems, etc... Commercial plumbing fixtures will therefore require more effort and knowledge of code and manufacturers requirements than fixtures associated with Multiple Residences.

Plumbing Permit Fees for partial service users within the City of Ithaca

Water and Sewer revenues make up the largest funding source for plumbing inspection services. This revenue stream is generated by quarterly billings for water usage (metered water) and sewer charges based on water consumption. However, not all properties within the City take both water and sewer from the City. These customers are identified herein as “partial” service users since the City bills them for water only or for sewer only and, as such, they contribute less to the Water and Sewer revenue budget for similar service.

This proposal adds a “cost recovery” fee for properties identified as partial service users of 15% added to the total cost of the Plumbing Permit. It is intended to help defray costs that full rate payers subsidize now and create a more equitable end user fee that more accurately reflects the true costs of providing plumbing review and inspection services for each user type.

Cost Justification

The old black leather-bound ledger found in the Vault at the Water and Sewer Division held the historical record of plumbing permits issued in the City of Ithaca. The first entry, dated October 31, 1973 was issued to a plumbing contractor by the name of Albanese. The permit was for a new house to be built at 253 Westwood Knoll and included the installation of 14 plumbing fixtures at \$1 per fixture and an application fee of \$5 as a single family residence...total \$19. If Mr. Albanese were to apply today for the same permit (40 years later) it would be issued at the cost of...\$19! Let this be submitted as cost justification #1.

A cost comparison of Plumbing permit Fees among other jurisdictions in our area was done in 2012 and reported in an e-mail to the Superintendent of Public Works and to the Assistant Superintendent, Water and Sewer Division attached. The proposed fee structure is well within the ranges being charged in areas such as: Cortland, Elmira, Auburn, and the Bolton Point Water Authority (Town of Ithaca, Lansing, Dryden....)

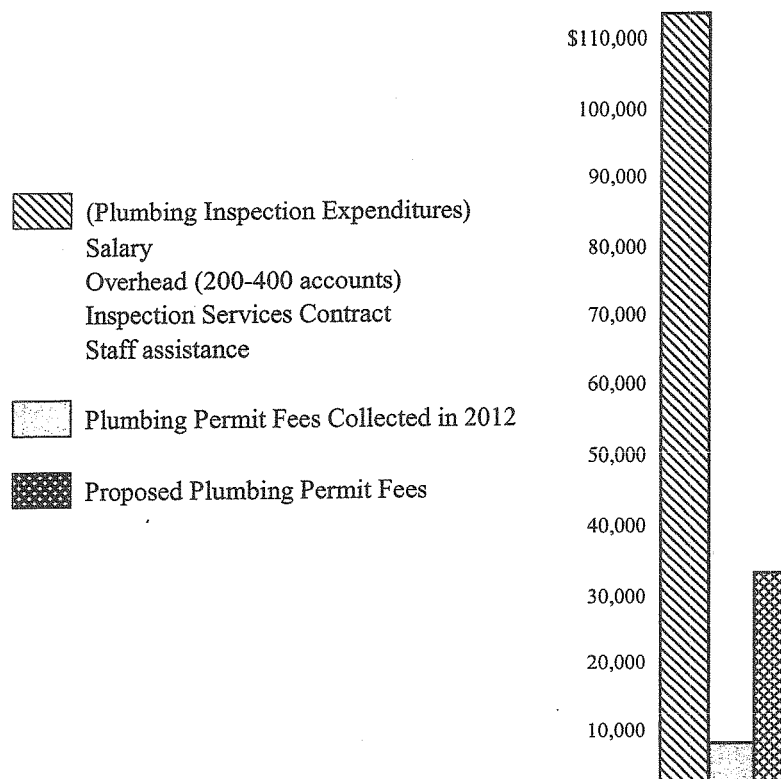
The actual cost vs. revenues for the City is represented in the bar chart below. The proposed fees will not exceed the cost of supply plumbing inspection services. It is evident that water and sewer rate payers will continue to be the major funding source for plumbing services even after shifting more of the costs to the permit holders.

2012 Plumbing Permits:

Actual Plumbing Permit Fees

collected in 2012 \$5,138.00

Proposed Plumbing Permit
Fees \$36,135.00



An analysis of 2012 Plumbing Permits for the City of Ithaca shows:

Number of permits.....117
Total revenue form permits.....\$5,136

Expenditures:

Inspector's salary.....\$64,493
 Salary overhead (40%).....\$25,797
 Contractual services.....\$12,000
 Office overhead and staff support.....\$8000

Total budgeted expenditures.....(\$110,290)

Revenues from Proposed Fees.....\$36,135

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **October 7, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		X
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 by Rudy Gaspar, seconded by Fred Meagher, motion approved (5-0)

Art Monaco motioned to accept last month's minutes, 2nd by Fred Meagher, motion approved (5-0)

Old Business

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department at the May meeting in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a "more restrictive code standard." The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. **Tom Costello motioned to table further discussion till January, Fred Meagher second motion approved (5-0)**

Fred Meagher 's letter dated 6, 28, 2013 to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel regarding rescinding the reciprocal licensing agreement with the City of Oneonta remains open. To date no response has been received. Copies of the letter were circulated to the members at the August meeting. **An additional letter was received from the law firm of Goldberg Segalla the board is to review and issue to remain open for discuss**

New Business

Tom Costello ask that board members review the legislation from Ithaca revising plumbing permit fees for further discussion at the November meeting.

Tom Costello's draft agreement, in regard to License Qualifications and Testing, that was presented for review at the July 31, 2013, meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners, updated on 8/5/13 was again reviewed. **Modifications additional modifications were made and a updated copy attached.**

Discussion on changing testing to a third party was also continued. Test to be based on the New York State Plumbing Code.

Tom Costello to contact the City Attorney in regard to how and who is appointed to make up our "official" Plumbing Board.

Tom Burke to contact Dan Crocker of Binghamton's Local 112 Plumbers and Pipefitters training facility on how and what their training is based.

Tom Costello motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Rudy Gasper and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and is scheduled for **November 4th at 3:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004**



3

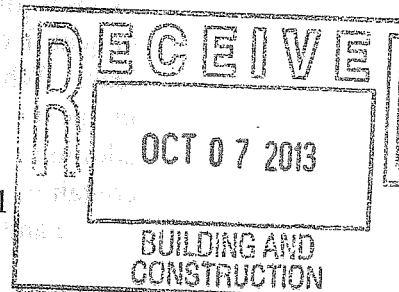
August 30, 2013

Via Facsimile--607-772-7155

Kenneth J. Frank, Corporation Counsel
City Of Binghamton
38 Hawley Street
Binghamton, New York 13901-3776

Via Facsimile--607-772-0508

Jerry Motsavage
City Council
Binghamton City Hall
38 Hawley Street
Binghamton, NY 13901



Re: Master Plumber Licenses and Reciprocal Agreements

Dear Mr. Frank and Councilman Motsavage:

We are writing to express our concern regarding a serious safety issue that exists in the City of Binghamton relating to the issuance of Master Plumber licenses. As a preliminary matter, please note that this letter is being submitted on behalf of the organizations and contractors set forth on the attached list.

As you know, Master Plumber licenses are generally issued once the applicant has successfully completed the following: 1) five (5) years of apprenticeship under a Master Plumber; 2) one year as a journeymen under a Master Plumber, and 3) passed a lengthy and rigorous master plumbing test administered by the City of Binghamton. The purpose of these requirements is to make sure that anyone working in the plumbing trade in our City is qualified to perform such work in a safe manner. The dangers arising from improperly performed plumbing work are numerous. Collectively, we have decades upon decades of experience in the plumbing trade and have seen these dangers firsthand as we correct the work performed by unqualified and/or unlicensed plumbers. For example:

- Improperly installed hot water heaters can explode, causing fires that badly burn or kill the people living in the home. They can also develop water leaks. These explosions and leaks can cause thousands and thousands of dollars in property damage.
- Improperly installed vents can cause poisonous gases to enter the home and kill the families living there.
- Cross connections and back flow can cause the contamination of drinking water in homes and businesses due to waste water infiltration. This poses a serious public health hazard as there are numerous, well-documented cases where cross connections have resulted in the spread of disease. It is

extremely important that safe and sanitary drinking water be supplied to the residents of the City of Binghamton.

- In copper installations, soldering joints is common practice. In order to solder two such joints together, a flammable gas gun is used. This exposes the structure to a risk of fire. There have been times when unqualified plumbers have failed to close the valve properly causing gas to leak. When the plumber reignites the gas gun, the gas that has collected in the room explodes, once again causing severe injury or death. In addition, unlicensed plumbers are still using lead solder. Solder containing lead is toxic and ingesting lead, as you may know, can cause severe and permanent cognitive damage.
- Improperly installed ejector pumps. A poorly placed seal can cause sewage to flood a basement, resulting in property damage and a foul odor throughout the house.

There are numerous reports of accidents and the dangers associated with improperly performed plumbing work. We are enclosing copies of articles regarding a natural gas explosion in Corning during the installation of a hot water heater. Obviously, the chance of an accident due to improperly performed work increases when the person performing the work is not properly qualified. Only uniform requirements for working as an apprentice and journeyman, and standardized testing can make this trade safe for all concerned.

It should also be noted that there are dangers to the plumbers who are performing the work. We are exposed to dangerous substances in the environment, such as asbestos and lead. It is important for all plumbers to be aware of the risks posed by these substances and they must have the requisite training so they know how to handle these types of hazards. Electrical shock can also pose a hazard for plumbers if they work in places which have many electrical connections. It is important that plumbers know that they should use power tools with ground fault protection. The risk is greater when the plumber comes into contact with metal pipes. He has to know that even if there is the slightest sensation he must shut his work down immediately. Plumbers have to work in cramped environments and are exposed to high levels of hydrogen sulfide and low levels of oxygen. Plumbers need to know that they should circulate fresh air whenever possible to try and avoid any serious health issues.

The bottom line is that there are many things a plumber has to face and keep aware of. Plumbing is not just about connecting pipes and changing washers in taps. The plumbing trade is dangerous and those choosing to work in it must be properly trained and educated. It is imperative that they be tested so that we can all be sure that those practicing in our trade have the knowledge that will enable them to work in a safe manner i.e., not harm themselves or their customers. This is why we were so alarmed to find out that certain individuals are trying to obtain their Master Plumber licenses in the City of Oneonta without successfully passing our challenging Master Plumber examination.

It is our understanding that individuals are going to Oneonta, obtaining their Master Plumber licenses there, and then using the reciprocal licensing agreements that exist with Binghamton to obtain their Master Plumber licenses in our city. Notably, they are obtaining a Master Plumber license without ever having taken and passed a Master Plumbing examination. These individuals then attempt to use the reciprocal agreements Binghamton has with the Village of Endicott and the Village of Johnson City to work as a Master Plumbers in those areas as well. These individuals are making a mockery of the high standards that this City has put in place for issuing Master Plumber licenses, and using a loophole that was unintentionally created when these reciprocal agreements were enacted. Fortunately, some municipalities have caught on to this questionable practice and have begun to take steps to close the loophole.

First, the City of Oneonta is no longer issuing Master Plumber licenses under the reciprocal licensing agreement it has with Binghamton. Second, the Village of Johnson City Plumbing Board resolved on May 9, 2012 that "[r]eciprocal plumbing licenses shall no longer be issued by the Clerk's office without prior approval by the Examining Board of Plumbers for each applicant." A copy of correspondence from Sean Fitzgerald of the Plumbing Board is enclosed for your consideration. This action was important because one individual went so far as to file a lawsuit against the Village of Johnson City seeking an Order compelling it to issue him a Master Plumber license. His lawsuit was dismissed by Judge Tait of the Supreme Court of the State of New York because 1) Oneonta suspended its reciprocity agreement with Binghamton, 2) the plumber never passed a master plumbing examination in any municipality, 3) the plumber never sought approval by the Examining Board of Plumbers, and 4) there was a "clear rational basis for requiring competency testing as a prerequisite to obtaining a master plumbing license in any given municipality."

This brings us to the next risk facing the City of Binghamton, namely litigation costs. As taxpayers and voters, we are concerned that the current system of reciprocal licensing could lead to numerous costly lawsuits against the City. We have already seen one such lawsuit brought against the Village of Johnson City and it is easy to imagine that similar suits can be brought against Binghamton. Binghamton could also be exposing itself to liability for accidents where the Binghamton plumbing inspector approved plumbing work performed by someone improperly licensed. We don't have to tell you just how expensive litigation is both in terms of compensation to the victim and in terms of attorney's fees. It is truly in the best interests of all concerned that there be one set of rules for everyone. This would result in an even and safe playing field, one free of the risk of municipal liability. As Judge Tait stated in his decision "[t]he logic of ensuring a uniform level of competence is particularly apparent where, as here, several municipalities have agreed upon a system of reciprocal testing."

We do not have an even playing field with a uniform level of competence at present. We are aware of at least two instances where individuals have failed a local Master Plumber examination, but have eventually obtained Master Plumber licenses here because they went to Oneonta and received their license without having passed an examination. It is our understanding that these individuals have their primary business locations in the Village of Johnson City and the Village of Endicott. The purpose of the reciprocal agreements was to assist plumbers, whose primary business location was Oneonta, to obtain work in our area, and vice versa, after passing an examination. It was not contemplated that the reciprocal agreements

would be used by local plumbers (who could not pass a local examination) to obtain their Master Plumber license here by going to Oneonta. Further, it is galling that Oneonta will no longer recognize the reciprocal agreement with Binghamton. In fact, Oneonta no longer recognizes Master Plumber licenses obtained in Binghamton. Oneonta now requires individuals who have such licenses to take and pass an examination in Oneonta in order to work there. Moreover, Oneonta disbanded its Plumbing Board, and it never notified Binghamton of this.

Based upon the foregoing, we strongly urge the City of Binghamton to change its reciprocal licensing system. Specifically, we request that Binghamton permanently suspend any reciprocal agreement it has with a municipality that has lesser requirements for issuing Master Plumber licenses. All Master Plumbers working in Binghamton should be required to have the same number of years of experience working as an apprentice and journeyman, and should successfully complete a standardized Master Plumber examination. We also request that any reciprocal licensing agreements that Binghamton enters into in the future have these same requirements. Lastly, we request that Binghamton revoke and/or not renew any Master Plumber licenses obtained from other municipalities, such as Oneonta, where the individuals have not passed a Master Plumber examination. Once these individuals have the proper experience and have passed the requisite standard examination, they are welcome to work in our City. All we are asking for is a level playing field with uniform standards.

We are available to make a presentation to the City Council regarding this very important public safety issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


David E. Leach

/del

Enclosure

Broome County N.Y. Association of Plumbing,
Heating, & Cooling Contractors, Inc.
P.O. Box 1166
Binghamton, New York 13902

Luciano Piccirilli
George Slavik
Michael Piccirilli
Piccirilli – Slavik & Vincent Plumbing & Heating,
Inc.
37 Brandywine Street
Binghamton, New York 13901

Wayne Howard
Louis N Picciano & Son Inc
320 N Jensen Road # 6
Vestal, NY 13850-2111

Rick Holden
Drain Works Plumbing, Inc.
279 Ridgefield Road
Endicott, New York 13760

Joseph Keyes
Heat-Tek
1979 E Campville Road
Endicott, NY 13760

John Piccirilli
John Piccirilli Plumbing
1019 Conklin Road
Conklin, New York 13748

Southern Tier of New York Mechanical Contractors
Association
P.O. Box 1166
Binghamton, New York 13902

Karl Eschbach
K&S Plumbing, Heating and Air
329 Water Street
Binghamton, New York 13901

Dan Feduke
Water Works Plumbing Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 582
Johnson City, New York 13790

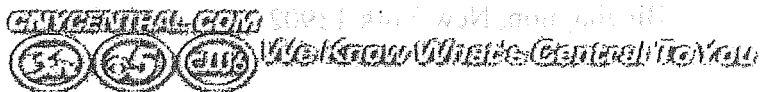
Joseph Leto
A.J. Leto & Sons Plumbing & Heating
1539 Union Center Maine Highway
Endicott, New York 13760

Michael Petcosky
Petcosky & Sons Plumbing and Heating Inc.
421 Commerce Road
Vestal, New York 13850

Bob Auchinachie
Auchinachie Services
42 Frederick Street
Binghamton, New York 13901

Friday, August 30, 2013

69° Partly Cl

Fog/clouds, the
View Peter Hall

Home News Sports Weather Neighborhood Marketplace

Stories Video NDN Video Tips and Links Breakfast Club Health Tech Inside Justice Business



Plumbing work caused gas leak that blasted Corning home

Posted: 08.06.2012 at 6:43 AM

Read more: Local, News,
Plumbing, Upstate New York,
Natural Gas, Leak, Explosion,
Propane, Torch, Corning, Hot
Water Heater, Robert Young,
Paul Young

0

1

0

1

Recommend 0

save

send

print

CORNING (AP) -- Authorities say a man and his grandson were doing plumbing work in an upstate New York home when they accidentally caused a natural gas leak that exploded when they lit a propane torch.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported that Corning Fire Chief John Tighe said the men were installing a new hot water heater.



The explosion destroyed the home near downtown Corning, in New York's Finger Lakes region. The blast also damaged a nearby home and blew out windows for blocks.

The two men, 86-year-old Robert Young and his 38-year-old grandson, Paul Young, were both pulled from the wreckage alive and hospitalized.

(Copyright ©2012 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)

RELATED LINKS

- Corning home explodes, blows out windows for blocks

save

send

print

more

By Derrick Ek

Print Page

August 04, 2012 12:01AM

Gas leak caused home explosion; victims remain in guarded condition

A natural gas leak that occurred during a home repair project caused Friday's home explosion on Wilson Street, fire officials have confirmed. The victims remain in guarded condition at Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital.

A natural gas leak that occurred during a water heater project caused Friday's home explosion on Wilson Street, fire officials have confirmed.

Investigators from the Corning Fire Department, state Public Service Commission and state Office of Fire Control and Prevention wrapped up their investigation early Saturday evening.

"What happened is, the two occupants were replacing a hot water heater in the basement, and inadvertently caused a natural gas leak, and when they lit their propane torch to sweat some copper fittings, that was just enough ignition source to cause the explosion," said Corning Fire Chief John Tighe.

The victims of the blast -- which occurred at approximately 11 a.m. Friday at 48 Wilson St. in the Houghton Plot -- are homeowner Robert Young, 86, and his grandson, Paul Young, 38, of Ohio.

The Youngs remain in guarded condition at Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital with severe burns. Guarded condition means their injuries are life-threatening and require a high level of care and supervision, according to hospital staff.

While working on the project, the Youngs had temporarily disconnected the gas line to the hot water heater, and thought they had turned the gas off, but they hadn't, Tighe said.

The Youngs had gone out to buy some parts and then returned to finish the project, so the gas could have been leaking for quite a while, Tighe said.

The gas filled the home, but because of some "extenuating circumstances," the men didn't notice an odor, Tighe added.

When they lit the torch, it triggered an explosion that completely destroyed the home, heavily damaged nearby houses, and was heard and felt all over the city.

The Youngs are very fortunate to be alive, said Corning Police Chief Sal Trentanelli.

They were working in a corner of the basement that provided some protection from the blast, which went up and away from them, he said.

The brick walls of the home blew out sideways, and the roof went straight up in the air, Trentanelli said.

After the explosion, a group of bystanders dug away the rubble and pulled the Youngs, who'd been yelling for help, out of the basement. Emergency responders arrived moments later and the Youngs were later airlifted to Rochester.

On Saturday, bulldozers removed debris while fire investigators worked to pinpoint the cause. They examined the gas pipes and the hot water tank, among other evidence.

Wood and other debris was still strewn around the neighborhood Saturday afternoon, hanging from trees and floating in a swimming pool.

Four nearby homes were ruled unsafe and closed off by city fire officials, and another three were classified as "enter at owner's risk." Another 15 to 20 homes had relatively minor damage, Tighe said.

The gas lines in the area -- which were recently replaced -- have been carefully checked by fire officials and Corning Natural Gas, and the neighborhood is safe, he said.

Crews will continue cleaning up the area today.



PHOTO/ DERRICK EK

State and city fire investigators examine a gas pipe Saturday

<http://www.the-leader.com/article/20120804/NEWS/308049994>

Print Page

[Hello, Guest](#) | [Login](#) | [Sign Up](#)[Help: Knowledge Base](#) | [Live Chat](#) | [Submit a Ticket](#)

Search SBWire

Search

[Home](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Printer Friendly View](#)

Home Improvement Accident Causes Natural Gas Explosion Damaging 20 Homes Reports LocalPlumberSaylesbury.com

Posted on Wednesday, October 10, 2012

<http://www.sbwire.com/press-releases/home-improvement-accident-causes-natural-gas-explosion-damaging-20-homes-reports-localplumbersaylesburycom-171256.htm>

Explosion Caused By Faulty Water Heater Installation Damages 20 Homes

San Francisco, CA -- (SBWIRE) -- 10/10/2012 -- Two men in upstate New York caused a natural gas explosion when they tried to install a home water heater. The accident caused the men to be severely burned, destroyed three homes, and damaged 20 others. The two men, an 86-year-old former handyman who owned the Corning, New York residence and his 38-year-old grandson, had failed to disconnect the gas line properly. The blast on a Friday morning in August was reportedly heard throughout the city of 11,000.

The do-it-yourselfer octogenarian had lost his sense of smell, and his grandson was suffering from a sinus condition. Thus, neither detected the odor of the natural gas seeping into the basement before one of them lit a propane torch in order to sweat copper fittings on the gas pipe.

The Corning police chief said the men were pulled from the wreckage by neighbors. Authorities said they survived due to having been working in a corner of the basement, somewhat shielding them from the blast that moved up and away from them. The home's walls blew straight out. Its roof went straight up in the air, according to the local fire chief. When a rescue crew arrived to airlift them to a hospital, it found wreckage from neighborhood homes hanging from trees and floating in a nearby swimming pool.

A veteran plumber on the plumbing board in nearby Binghamton, New York, points to the incident as the latest proof that tighter standards are needed for potentially dangerous jobs. The board official called for an end to local laws letting homeowners, and in some cases unqualified contractors, perform such potentially dangerous work. The two men whose home repair attempts turned into a demolition had not violated any local ordinances, the Corning fire chief noted.

Besides the danger of devastating explosion, botched plumbing work can cause air and water contamination, notes Rudy Gaspar, who has over 40 years experience in the trade. He added, "There are so many things that can go wrong," and urged local communities to step up site inspections and review of work permits. Although some local regulations contain loopholes that less-qualified contractors do the work, Gaspar cautions that potentially dangerous jobs like installing gas-fired water heaters should only be done by "properly trained and licensed plumbers."

Even before the incident, plumbing board officials and trade groups had been advocating tighter regulations, to prevent unqualified persons from attempting potentially dangerous plumbing projects. The Binghamton city council recently voted to withdraw with an agreement recognizing licenses from Oneonta, another city in the area, after finding that some plumbers based in other cities were getting licensed in Oneonta due to lower licensing standards there.

About LocalPlumberSaylesbury.com

LocalPlumberSaylesbury.com (<http://www.localplumbersaylesbury.com>) is run by a Gas engineer Aylesbury who serves the Aylesbury region of Buckinghamshire, England, providing a full range of plumbing and heating services of all sizes. Run by a gas safe plumber Aylesbury and a reliable plumber in Aylesbury, the firm offers top-quality 24-hour emergency services at very competitive rates. The Peter Masons Plumbing & Heating Aylesbury website contains a full description of its services, testimonials from satisfied customers and a gallery of before-and-after photos from the reliable plumber in Aylesbury, who is a local, trustworthy plumber. Need a plumber? Need plumbing work? Visit us and click here on the URL and get information on how to call Peter the plumber.

Media Relations Contact

Ben Jacks

<http://www.localplumbersaylesbury.com/>

8/15/19
Presented at Joint Mtg. with J.C.
Review for next mtg. Will supersede
the original Tripartite -

DEFINITIONS

1. **Applicant** – A person who has submitted an application to sit for the Exam, as required to be licensed as Master Plumber, under the Plumbing licensing program provided herein
2. **Host Municipality** – The Participant Municipality that has principal responsibility for administration of the Exam, under the Plumbing Licensing program provided herein
3. **Participant Municipality** - A municipality that is signatory to the Plumbing Licensing Agreement and which is duly represented on the Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners
4. **Joint Board of Plumbing Examiners** – A voluntary affiliation between Participant Municipalities, with powers, duties and responsibilities as described herein
5. **Master Plumber** – A person who was duly qualified to sit for the Plumbing License Exam, who has achieved a passing grade on that Exam, and who has been issued a valid license to perform Plumbing services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the any one or all of the Participant Municipalities
6. **Testing Agency** – An organization whose principal business is comprised of testing services for trade licensing that is duly certified or authorized by a Board-recognized authority and thereby authorized to provide such testing services for Plumbing licensing program described herein
7. **Plumbing License Exam** – A standardized test that has been approved by the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers and, based on content and methodology, is an appropriate vehicle for assessing the qualifications and experience of an Applicant, as required to qualify the Applicant to work as a Licensed Master Plumber within the jurisdictional boundary of each Participant Municipality

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

1. Each Participant Municipality agrees to draft and endorse municipal legislation that will amend any previous agreements that pertain to intermunicipal reciprocity, in relation to their respective Master Plumber Licensing program. The form and content of authorizing legislation in each municipality shall specifically address and include the following items:
 - a. Endorse and authorize the creation of a Joint Board of Examining Plumbers, with duties, powers, and responsibilities as provided herein
 - b. Endorse and authorize a revised Master Plumber License reciprocity agreement under which a single license, issued by the Host Municipality, will be recognized and honored by all Participant Municipalities
 - c. Endorse and authorize the principal and practice of standardized testing, by an independent testing agency, based on the International Code and all other codes subordinate thereto
 - d. Endorse and authorize the collection and disposition of fees by the Host Municipality, as required to administer the Master Plumbing License program in the manner and method described herein

- e. Reserve each of the current qualification standards for the Exam, as provided under current legislation within each municipality, until or unless a new, uniform standard for qualifications is jointly adopted by the Joint Board, on behalf of all Participant Municipalities
- f. Authorize and endorse the Terms and Conditions of this agreement for the purpose of enrolling a Participant Municipality as a signatory party or for the purpose of terminating this agreement on the part of any one or more signatories

2. (Reserved)

JOINT BOARD OF EXAMINING PLUMBERS

what about a quorum or official meeting?

1. The Joint Board of Examining Plumbers shall be comprised of two representatives from the local Board of Plumbing Examiners, or equivalent, from each Participant Municipality. *what is an equivalent?*
2. Each municipal representative may cast a single vote for any action of the Joint Board. Board action shall be approved by a simple majority, except where otherwise noted herein. *of members present?*
3. Meetings of the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers
 - a. The Board shall meet regularly and a minimum of four times per year.
 - b. If an official meeting of the Joint Board is not held for a period of more than one year the Reciprocity Agreement, by any Municipality, shall be suspended and no new licenses shall be issued under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, until or unless a schedule of regular meetings has been reestablished by the Board
4. The Joint Board of Examining Plumbers shall designate one of the Participant Municipalities as the Host Municipality
 - a. The Host Municipality shall be selected by a two-thirds majority vote *of the participating municipalities*
 - b. Any Participant Municipality may waive the opportunity to serve as the Host Community
 - c. The Joint Board shall have the authority to establish a sequential rotation of the Host Community

HOST COMMUNITY

~~the meeting schedule~~

1. The Host Community shall be responsible for the following administrative tasks:
 - a. Publicize and promote the Master Plumber Exam
 - b. Maintain a formal system to receive and process Application(s) for new licenses
 - c. Maintain a formal, Joint Board-approved method of validating or invalidating current licenses and a method for renewing expired or invalid licenses
 - d. Maintain and publicize an official, current list of Licensed Master Plumbers
 - e. Maintain and administer all official records generated by the Licensing program
 - f. Administer and proctor the Exam, as described herein, in support of Testing Agency
 - g. Publish and distribute Licensing documents
 - h. Maintain, administer, and publish the official Meeting calendar, agenda, and minutes on behalf of the Joint Board
2. The Host Community shall not have sole responsibility for any official action of the Joint Board

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANT COMMUNITIES

1. Each Participant Municipality agrees to send two (2) voting representatives to each meeting of the Joint Board of Examining Plumbers *Describe of members present*
2. If a Participant Municipality fails to attend at least one official Joint Board meeting, during a period of one calendar year, the other members of the Board shall decide, by a vote of simple majority, whether to terminate or sustain the Reciprocity Agreement with the non-participating Municipality
3. The voting representatives from each Participant Community will meet, as a Joint Board, to evaluate minimum qualifications of each Applicant for the Exam and to establish the final list of qualified Applicants.
 - a. The preliminary qualifications for each Applicant shall be transmitted to each voting representative at least four (4) weeks prior to the Joint Board meeting
 - b. In the event of disputed qualifications, the eligibility of any applicant to qualify for the exam shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the voting representatives present at a meeting of the Joint Board

LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER EXAM**1. Minimum Qualifications**

- a. Pending any future action of the Joint Board to establish a uniform standard and method of qualification for all Participant Municipalities, the initial qualification of an Applicant shall be in accordance with the current minimum standards for the Host Municipality or any one of the other Participant Municipalities
 - i. A copy of the current standards for all Municipalities shall be provided to the Applicant as a standard component of the Application package
 - ii. If a specific question is received from an Applicant, in regard to the minimum qualifications of a Participant Community, the Applicant may be referred to the Participant Community's Board of Plumbing Examiners or designee
- b. The Joint Board shall reserve sole power to determine whether any Applicant is sufficiently qualified to sit for the Plumbing Licensing Exam and to authorize same by simple majority vote *Describe the qualifications for taking the test. of attendant members?*

2. Exam Application – the Host Community will administer the examination in the following manner:

- a. Coordinate the time, place, and method of exam with the approved Testing Agency
- b. Receive applications for completeness and collect fees from the exam Applicants
 - i. The Applicant shall pay a non-refundable, administrative fee of FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50), payable to the Host Community, at the time of application
 - ii. Revenue generated by Administrative fees shall be maintained in an independent municipal fund and used exclusively to subsidize administrative costs incurred by the Host Municipality
- c. Compile application files and perform a formal review of qualifications, as required to establish a preliminary list of eligible applicants
- d. Transmit complete applications to the members of Participant Communities, at least four weeks prior to the meeting scheduled by the Joint Board for this Applicant review

3. Testing Agency – the Exam for Licensed Master Plumber shall be designed and administered by a testing agency, fully qualified and duly certified for this service.

- a. The Board from each municipality participant to this agreement will review the qualifications of the Testing Agency, prior to a meeting of the Joint Board.
- b. One representative from each Board will vote for or against approval of the Testing Agency

& then what? majority wins? of what group?

10/7

- c. The term of the contract with the Testing Agency will be for a period of two years, with an option to renew the contract for a period of three additional years.
 - d. The fee for the examination shall be as established by the Testing Agency and shall be paid directly to the Testing Agency by the applicant, in accordance with a standardized method of payment and subsequent to Board approved qualification to sit for the exam.
 - e. The exam shall be held twice a year, minimum, in September and in May of each calendar year
4. **Exam Administration** – The Testing Agency will administer the examination to all qualified Applicants, in the following manner:
- a. Coordinate the time, place, and method of exam with the Host Municipality
 - b. Receive the Agency Exam application and applications fees from each Applicant from the list of Board-qualified Applicants
 - c. Administer Exam on scheduled date and at scheduled location
 - d. Score exams and transmit results to the Host Community
 - e. The Host Municipality shall review the results of the examination and transmit the results to each of the respective Boards within thirty (30) days of the date results are received from the Testing Agency or examination date, whichever is sooner

RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FOR EXISTING LICENSURE

All Participant Municipalities agree to recognize that any Master Plumber who is legally licensed by any one or more of the Participant Municipalities shall be deemed legally licensed, without any further qualification or examination, upon producing their current license and paying the license fee to the municipality from which a license is sought, except as provided below:

1. Such recognition shall continue as long as each Participant Municipalities has agreed, under municipal ordinance, maintain a common standard, as to the qualifications and proscribed method of licensing of Master Plumbers
2. As of the effective date of this Agreement, any Master Plumbers who is currently licensed by virtue of passing a written exam, administered by a Participant Municipality, shall be entitled to reciprocal recognition pursuant to this Agreement
3. As of the effective date of this Agreement, any Master Plumbers who is currently licensed by virtue of any method of qualification other than a written exam administered by a Participant Municipality, shall not be entitled to reciprocal recognition pursuant to this Agreement, unless a Master License is held in any two thirds of the total number of Participant Municipalities

Explain this!

We don't think this is clear enough if others such as Oneonta & Norwich give acceptance as well as 1 other; i.e. J.C. End. or Bing?

Legislation: Plumbing Permit Fees

Whereas: Plumbing Permit Fees are a necessary and reasonable cost to the public for the local administration and enforcement of public health and sanitation laws required by State regulations.

Whereas: It is a necessary function of government to assess public service activities from time to time to determine the actual cost to the community and to establish reasonable fees for the proper discharge of said public services.

Whereas: The current Plumbing Permit Fee structure for the City of Ithaca is significantly lower than the surrounding area owing mostly to the fact that these fees have not been changed in over 40 years.

Whereas: It is desirable to have a more accurate cost sharing of plumbing review and inspections services in the form of Plumbing Permit Fees for end users who are the primary recipient of those services than to rely on rate payer revenues.

Now therefore be it resolved:

Chapter 146, Building Code Enforcement, Article 4, Plumbing, Section 146-30 Permits, C. Fees shall be amended by adding enumeration (1) as follows:

(1) City of Ithaca Plumbing Permit Fee Schedule

New construction

Single Family Residences: \$50 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 2-10 units: \$100 application fee plus \$ 5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 11-20 units: \$250 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences 21 units or more: \$500 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Commercial or Other Plumbing work under \$25,000: \$100 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work between \$25,000 to \$100,000: \$250 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work between \$100,000 to \$500,000: \$500 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Commercial or Other Plumbing work over \$500,000: \$750 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Renovations and Additions:

Single Family Residences: \$25 application fee plus \$5 per fixture

Multiple Residences: \$100 application fee plus \$ 5 per fixture

Commercial or Other Plumbing work: \$100 application fee plus \$10 per fixture.

Partial Service Users

All permit fees for work conducted on premises not connected to City water or sewer service or not anticipated to be connected to City water or sewer service once connected to any water or sewer service shall be based on the City of Ithaca Plumbing Permit Fee Schedule for Commercial or Other Plumbing work plus 15 percent of the total therein specified.

Legislative Intent

The revenues collected by the City through the regular issuances of water and sewer bills establish the budget and spending allowances of the Water and Sewer Division. The office of the Plumbing Inspector is an expenditure within that Division. Although, plumbing permit fees do contribute to the Water and Sewer revenues, 95% of the expenditures required for plumbing services are now covered by rate payer revenues. It is the intension of this legislation to shift more of that cost onto the primary user of the service, specifically, the permit holder in the form of plumbing permit fees that more accurately reflect the actual cost to the City to provide plumbing review, inspection and enforcement.

This proposed Plumbing Permit Fee structure will bring our rates in line with the rates of other jurisdictions in our area while providing a more equitable cost sharing solution between the rate payers and permit holders. A planned "phase-in" of all rates seems impractical and counterproductive due to the historically low existing rates.

Sliding Scale.

The fee schedule keeps the Single Family Residential permits at a reasonable cost at somewhere in the \$30-\$40 range for most work while providing a "sliding scale" for all other types of construction. The increases in the fees are proportional to the amount of review that is associated with more complicated or compound plumbing construction (multiple types, high rises, mixed uses). The issues that necessitate a higher degree of plan review such as: fire flows, large meter sizing, valve placements, equipment locations, backflow requirements, grease trap sizing, utility service sizing and entrance coordination, storm water regulations, sanitary discharge requirements and others, qualify the higher fees.

Within the "sliding scale" fees there are two general categories of Multiple Residence and Commercial. In the Multiple Residence fees the application cost increase with the number of units and reflects the increased administrative effort needed to approve plans and specifications, coordinate with department personnel and resources, and to execute the requirements for issuing the permit. The fixture fees are universal for multiple residence applications and represent the costs associated with inspections and the administration of the actual construction phase.

Commercial and Other

The Commercial or Other (Academic, Industrial, etc) application fees are similar to the Multiple Residences fees except that, instead of units, the fee is based on the dollar value of the plumbing work (Actual Total of Labor and Material). Our Building Department uses a similar method of total construction cost to determine the Building Permit fee. The actual formulas may vary but the concept and premise are the same. The dollar value is used to represent the amount of plumbing work or equipment being installed. The greater the dollar value, the greater the administrative review. Fixture fees are higher but universal within the category and represent the costs associated with inspections and the administration of the actual construction phase.

The higher fixture costs associated with commercial plumbing equipment is justified in that there can be found in these types of fixtures more specialized and unique installation requirements than standard household plumbing. Here the gamut extends beyond bathrooms and kitchens to plumbing items designed for other Industries. Examples are: cooling towers and chillers, steam and hot water boilers, commercial dishwashers, chemical rinse dispensers, sterilizers, surgery tables, dental aspirator, medical vacuum/water systems, fume hoods, lab sinks, wok stoves, landscape irrigation systems, grease and sediment interceptors, sewage ejectors, water filtration systems, make-up water for fan/coil systems, etc... Commercial plumbing fixtures will therefore require more effort and knowledge of code and manufacturers requirements than fixtures associated with Multiple Residences.

Plumbing Permit Fees for partial service users within the City of Ithaca

Water and Sewer revenues make up the largest funding source for plumbing inspection services. This revenue stream is generated by quarterly billings for water usage (metered water) and sewer charges based on water consumption. However, not all properties within the City take both water and sewer from the City. These customers are identified herein as "partial" service users since the City bills them for water only or for sewer only and, as such, they contribute less to the Water and Sewer revenue budget for similar service.

This proposal adds a "cost recovery" fee for properties identified as partial service users of 15% added to the total cost of the Plumbing Permit. It is intended to help defray costs that full rate payers subsidize now and create a more equitable end user fee that more accurately reflects the true costs of providing plumbing review and inspection services for each user type.

Cost Justification

The old black leather-bound ledger found in the Vault at the Water and Sewer Division held the historical record of plumbing permits issued in the City of Ithaca. The first entry, dated October 31, 1973 was issued to a plumbing contractor by the name of Albanese. The permit was for a new house to be built at 253 Westwood Knoll and included the installation of 14 plumbing fixtures at \$1 per fixture and an application fee of \$5 as a single family residence...total \$19. If Mr. Albanese were to apply today for the same permit (40 years later) it would be issued at the cost of...\$19! Let this be submitted as cost justification #1.

A cost comparison of Plumbing permit Fees among other jurisdictions in our area was done in 2012 and reported in an e-mail to the Superintendent of Public Works and to the Assistant Superintendent, Water and Sewer Division attached. The proposed fee structure is well within the ranges being charged in areas such as: Cortland, Elmira, Auburn, and the Bolton Point Water Authority (Town of Ithaca, Lansing, Dryden...)

The actual cost vs. revenues for the City is represented in the bar chart below. The proposed fees will not exceed the cost of supply plumbing inspection services. It is evident that water and sewer rate payers will continue to be the major funding source for plumbing services even after shifting more of the costs to the permit holders.

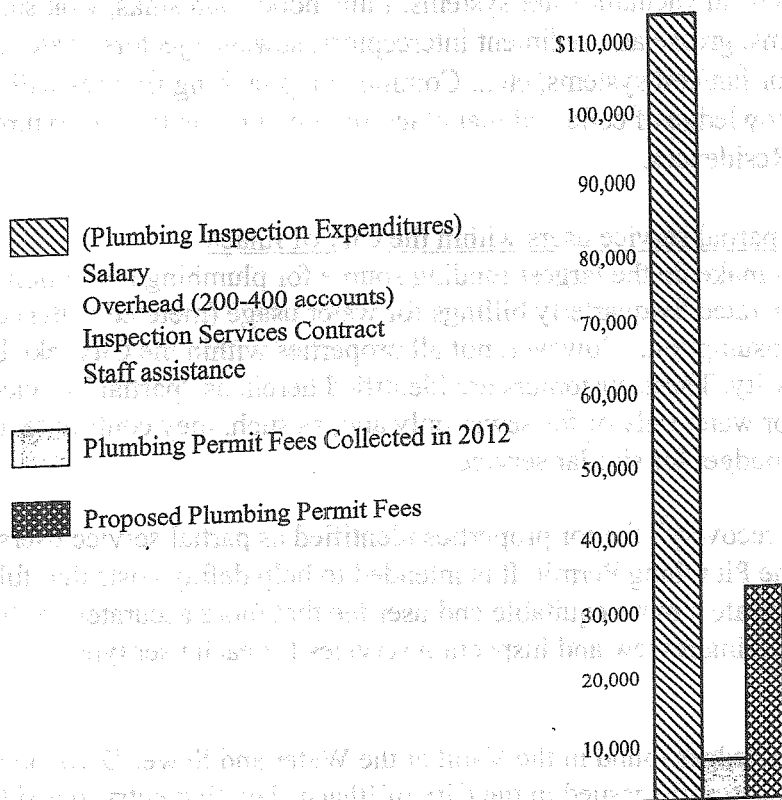
2012 Plumbing Permits:

Actual Plumbing Permit Fees

collected in 2012 **\$5,138.00**

Proposed Plumbing Permit Fees

\$36,135.00



(Plumbing Inspection Expenditures)
 Salary
 Overhead (200-400 accounts)
 Inspection Services Contract
 Staff assistance

Plumbing Permit Fees Collected in 2012

Proposed Plumbing Permit Fees

An analysis of 2012 Plumbing Permits for the City of Ithaca shows:

Number of permits.....117
 Total revenue form permits.....\$5,136

Expenditures:

Inspector's salary.....\$64,493
 Salary overhead (40%).....\$25,797
 Contractual services.....\$12,000
 Office overhead and staff support.....\$8000

Total budgeted expenditures.....(\$110,290)

Revenues from Proposed Fees.....\$36,135